

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

AID-20 PC-15 DRC-01 /119 W
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R 141347Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5225

INFO USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTEVIDEO 2783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PINT, UY

SUBJ: UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS

CINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: A-121, AUG 25, 1973

1. IN AN ALMOST TOTALLY PEACEFUL ELECTION, FRENTE AMPLIO CANDIDATES CONTINUED THEIR DOMINATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S ASSEMBLY COUNCILS. THE MONTEVIDEO VOTE (APPROXIMATELY THREE-QUARTERS OF TOTAL VOTE) SHOWS FRENTE AMPLIO BACKED SLATES WINNING 62 PERCENT OF THE STUDENT VOTE, 68 PERCENT OF THE FACULTY VOTE, AND 42 PERCENT OF ALUMNI VOTE. BALLOTS FROM THE INTERIOR AND MAILED BALLORTS ARE NOT YET COUNTED.

2. FRENTE AMPLIO CANDIDATES HOLD AMSABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF STUDENT VOTES IN NINE OF TEN INDIVIDUAL FACULTIES AND A SIMPLE MAJORITY IN THE OTHER. THE NATIONALIST UNIVERSITY MOVEMENT (MUN), PUBLICLY SUPPORTED BY THE WILSON FERREIRA'S FACTION OF THE BLANCO PARTY, RECEIVED 72 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL STUDENT VOTE AND THE BATLLISTA UNIVERSITY GROUP, NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORTED BY AN GROUP BUT OFTEN LINKED BY THE PRESS TO JORGE BATTLE'S LIST OF 15 OF THE COLORADO PARTY, HAD 9 PERCENT. THE CAMPAIGN OF FAR RIGHT TO CAST BLANK BALLOTS AS A PROTEST AGAINST LEFTIST ORIENTATON OF THE UNIVERSITY HAD
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NEGLEGIBLE RESULTS.

3. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND AT LEAST EIGHT OF THE TEN INDIVIDUAL FACULTY ASSEMBLIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE FRENTE AMPLIO. THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE LAW AND VETERINARY FACULTIES WILL BE SPLIT ALMOST EVENLY BETWEEN THE FRENTE AMPLIO AND VARIOUS OTHER GROUPS.

4. SECRETARY GENERAL (THIRD RANKING OFFICIAL) OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TOLD EMBOFF THAT ELECTION RESULTS WERE "NEGATIVE" AND THAT IT WAS "LAMENTABLE" THAT EXECUTIVE HAD ALLOWED ELECTIONS. EDUCATION MINISTRY, WHICH REPORTEDLY WOULD HAV PREFERRED AVOIDING ELECTIONS IN PREFERENCE FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION OF UNIVERSITY, NOW STUDYING WHAT REMEDIAL ACTION IT CAN TAKE. NOT ALL ANTI-MARXIST SECTORS ARE UPSET WITH RESULTS, WHICH WERE GENERALLY EXPECTED. SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATIC GROUPS IN LAW AND VETERINARY FACULTIES HAS BOUYED HOPES THAT COMPLETE MARXIST DOMINANCE IS ENDING.

5. POLICE WERE PROVIDED BY INTERIOR MINISTER BOLENTINI AFTER RUMORS CIRCULATED OF ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT THE VOTING, BUT THE ONLY INCIDENT WHICH MARRED THE TRANQUILITY OF YESTERDAY'S ELECTIONS WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF SOME BALLOTS AT ONE OF MONTEVIDEO'S 140 POLLING PLACES.

6. COMMENT: THE FRENTE AMPLIO'S EXPECTED STRONG SHOWING WILL NOT CHANGE THE GOU'S (AND ESPECIALLY MINISTER OF EDUCATION NARANCIO'S) DETERMINATION TO REMOVE LEFTIST INFLUENCE FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, BUT IT WILL MAKE ANY GOU INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA MORE DIFFICULT AND PROBABLY MORE COSTLY IN TERMS OF POPULAR SUPPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MONTEV02783
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730934/aaaaayxf.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A-121, AUG 25, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS CINCSO FOR POLAD
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, UY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005